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Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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----------060196 191636Z /45
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO USDEL SECRETARY IN JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4205
AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0550

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJ: SECRETARY'S VISIT: SUGGESTED TOAST

REF: ATHENS 0513

1. AS INDICATED BY SEPTEL ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S INITIATIVE THE GOG HAS CHANGED THE DINNER BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND MRS. PAPALIGOURAS TO A SMALL STAG DINNER FOR THE SECRETARY HOSTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER. IN VIEW OF THE MORE PERSONAL AND LESS FORMAL NATURE OF THIS DINNER, FORMAL TOASTS MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE BUT THE MFA HAS PROMISED TO ADVISE US ON THIS POINT. NEVERTHELESS, SUBMITTED HEREWITH FOR APPROVAL IS A SUGGESTED TOAST IN THE EVENT IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE SECRETARY TO GIVE ONE OR WHICH HE MAY WISH TO DRAW ON AS APPROPRIATE.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF SUGGESTED TOAST: MR.PRIME MINISTER,
I AM SURE YOU KNOW THAT THE ANCIENT GREEKS, WHO THOUGHT DEEPLY ABOUT MANY PROBLEMS, THOUGHT ENOUGH OF DIPLOMATS TO GIVE US OUR OWN PRIVATE GOD, HERMES. THEIR MOTIVATION FOR MAKING THIS SINGULAR AWARD REMAINS A MYSTERY TO ME. DIPLOMATS HAVE BEEN QUICK TO CONCLUDE THAT THE ANCIENTS CORRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO US THE QUALITIES OF A DIVINE MESSENGER. THROUGH THE AGES THE CRITICS
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OF DIPLOMACY HAVE TENDED TO ANOTHER EXPLANATION: THE FIRST ACT OF THE INFANT HERMES WAS TO SNEAK OUT OF HIS CAVE AND STEAL APOLLO'S CATTLE.

3. OUR TINY FRATERNITY BADLY NEEDS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE OF OUR DIVINE ATTRIBUTES. PENDING SUCH AN UNLIKELY DISCOVERY WE MUST DEAL WITH OUR LESS

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PLEASANT REPUTATION.

4. AS A PROFESSION WE ARE ALLEGEDLY CAREFUL OF OUR
WORDS. IN FACT, HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT, AND THIS HAS DONE LITTLE
TO ENHANCE OUR POPULAR ESTEEM. IN THE MOST UNLIKELY
OF CIRCUMSTANCES DIPLOMATS AND STATESMEN ARE GIVEN
TO VOICE WORDS LIKE "STRONG BONDS", WHERE THERE ARE
NO STRONG BONDS - "HISTORICAL TIES" WHERE THERE IS
NO COMMON HISTORY - "PARTNERSHIP" WHERE THERE
IS NO FRIENDSHIP. DOING THIS, THEY CHEAPEN AND EMPTY
OF MEANING THE WORDS THEY SPEAK. IT IS ON OCCASIONS
SUCH AS THIS WHEN I MOST REGRET THEIR MISUSE AND
MISAPPLICATION BECAUSE THERE ARE NO BETTER WORDS THAN
FRIENDSHIP, PARTNERSHIP AND ALLIANCE TO DESCRIBE
AMERICA'S VIEW OF ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH GREECE. WHEN
I SAY THAT I SPEAK NOT ONLY FOR MYSELF BUT FOR PRESIDENT
CARTER AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

5. SINCE INDEPENDENCE OUR TWO NATIONS HAVE SHARED
TIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ENRICHED BY THE MANY GREEKS WHO CHOSE AMERICA
AS THEIR HOME. AS FELLOW DEMOCRACIES WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE
WORLD'S MOST PRIVILEGED AND EXCLUSIVE FRATERNITY. WE ARE NATO
ALLIES JOINED BY COMMON ASPIRATIONS AND COMMON PURPOSES.

6. THUS, I INVITE YOU ALL TO JOIN ME TO SALUTE NOT
ONLY THE HOSPITALITY YOU HAVE SHOWN ME AND MY PARTY,
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BUT ALSO TO HONOR THE BONDS OF AFFECTION AND PARTNER-
SHIP WHICH UNITE THE UNITED STATES AND GREECE.
END TEXT.
MILLS

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